



Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Mining in Schedule 4

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1. Civic Trust Auckland

Civic Trust Auckland is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region.

The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects

The Trust works to assist the various regional and local authorities and other relevant bodies to save and preserve all heritage of importance and to help construct a better future built environment.

2. Areas proposed for removal from Schedule 4 (section 4)

2.1 The 7,000 ha of land in schedule 4 has been scheduled for its conservation, cultural, tourism and recreation values. The damage caused by mining is incompatible with these values.

2.2 The intention of Schedule 4 listings of conservation areas was to be permanent protection.

2.3 The Schedule 4 Stocktake Discussion Paper suggests mining could be carried out where “appropriate”. Mining in schedule 4 conservation areas is not appropriate: these areas are, in terms of their natural and landscape values, New Zealand’s most valued publicly owned conservation areas.

2.4 Tourists from countries which have built over or otherwise destroyed their own areas of natural beauty come to New Zealand to experience our world-class conservation areas, set aside for all to enjoy.

2.5 *Civic Trust Auckland opposes all removals of land from Schedule 4.*

3. Specific areas proposed for removal from Schedule 4 (section 7)

3.1 Te Ahumata Plateau on Great Barrier Island / Aotea

3.1.1 Great Barrier Island / Aotea is a remote island highly valued by its small population and an important tourist destination for Aucklanders and tourists from further afield.

3.1.2 Mining on the Island is prohibited under Auckland City's District Plan.

3.1.3 Access for mining would be very difficult and would conflict with walking tracks and scenic views.

3.1.4 The storage on the Island of toxic waste from mining activity is incompatible with Great Barrier / Aotea's status as the jewel of the Hauraki Gulf.

3.1.5 Civic Trust Auckland opposes the removal of Te Ahumata Plateau from Schedule 4.

3.2 Sections of conservation land on the Coromandel Peninsula

3.2.1 The Coromandel is a unique peninsula of high conservation values, providing:

- large areas of intact forest
- a habitat for threatened species
- a wild and natural region close to major population centres
- scenic and recreation opportunities
- ecological tourism opportunities.

3.2.2 The conservation status and protection from mining in the Coromandel was achieved after nearly 20 years of campaigning, not only by local people but with huge support throughout New Zealand. These areas have high landscape values and are high priority sites for habitat and species protection.

3.2.3 Civic Trust Auckland opposes the removal of conservation land on the Coromandel Peninsula from Schedule 4.

3.3 Otahu & Parakawai Ecological Areas in the Coromandel

3.3.1 These two areas are the habitat of:

- the North Island brown kiwi
- long-tailed bats
- Hochstetter's frogs
- longfin eels
- banded kokopu.

3.3.2 Civic Trust Auckland opposes the removal of Otahu & Parakawai Ecological Areas from Schedule 4.

3.4 The Inangahua sector of Paparoa National Park

3.4.1 Paparoa National Park has outstanding ecological and landscape values. Open-cast mining is one type of mining that the government may propose for this area. This would cause extensive visual scarring from the mine itself as well as the required roads and other infrastructure.

3.4.2 Coal is not a clean source of energy and should not be considered as a resource when there are other options which are sustainable and clean.

3.4.3 National parks were set aside in perpetuity, as written in the National Parks Act:

“It is hereby declared that the provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.”

3.4.4 Civic Trust Auckland opposes the removal of The Inangahua sector of Paparoa National Park from Schedule 4.

4. Further investigation programme (section 5)

4.1 \$4 million has been allocated by the government to investigate the mineral potential of huge areas of Schedule 4 land, funding by the tax-payer for the benefit of the mining industry.

4.2 *Civic Trust Auckland opposes the further investigation programme.*

5. Joint Ministerial approval (section 6.1)

5.1 Decisions about conservation land should remain with the land-owning minister, such as the Conservation Minister.

5.2 *Civic Trust Auckland opposes joint ministerial approval for access to Crown Land.*

6. Areas proposed for addition to Schedule 4 (section 8)

6.1 Proposals for additions to Schedule 4 should be automatic each time new lands are gazetted into National Parks and the other land classification types listed in Schedule 4.

6.2 *Civic Trust Auckland supports the addition of 12,500 ha of new lands to Schedule 4.*

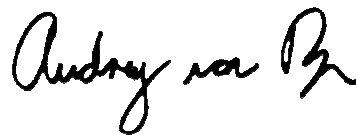
7. Establishment of a contestable conservation fund (section 9)

7.1 Conservation management of public land should be funded from DOC's core budget, which should have its pre-2009 level of funding reinstated.

7.2 *Civic Trust Auckland opposes the establishment of a contestable conservation fund from mining royalties.*

Date of submission: 23 May 2010

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey van der Pijl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Board Member, Civic Trust Auckland